

---

Minutes  
Public Forum  
January 26, 2016

Present: Mayor Kenneth F. Neilson, Council Members Troy Belliston, Kolene Granger, Garth Nisson, Jeff Turek, City Manager Roger Carter, City Attorney Jeff Starkey, Deputy Recorder Tara Pentz Kerry Wheelwright, Cari Bishop, Hailee Baker, Audience: Reta Hansen, Fay Reber, Neil Schwenoiman, Micheal Heaton, Jack Pettit, Loretta Jensen, Alfreda Rodriguez, Ron Rodriguez, Robert Wilcock, Kathy Wilcock, Greg Allen, Sarah Allen, Jacob Wilcock, Amber Wilcock, Star Layter, Robb Miller, Rick Neilson, Gaylene Thurston, Robert K. Adams, Curren Christensen, Deborah Thomson Lee, Linda Adams, Suzanne Murphy, Cheryl Lay, Ferril Dotson, Elisabeth Bingham, Jerry Fisher, Sue, Cox, A. Gail Cooper Smith, Kevin Smith, Prudence Bice, Dustin Cummings, Derick Legg, David Miller

Excused: Council Member Thad Seegmiller

Meeting commenced at 5:30 P.M.

**1. Comments from the Public.**

Jack Pettit stated he did not receive notice to opt out of the recycle program.

Susane Murphy stated she never received a form to opt out. The first she heard of the program was when the Blue Can was delivered. She only has a small amount of trash, and is hoping to be able to opt out at this time.

Linda Adams could not hear....

Bob Wilcox stated he is here on behalf of several individuals on Blue Mountain Road. Everyone he has spoken with did not know anything about this. He would like Council to consider sending out an additional notice.

Ron Rodriguez lives on Prickley Pear Drive. He was out of town the end of last year, and he did not get enough notice. He does not feel he generates enough trash to have a Blue Can. He would like to opt out at this time.

Rita Hansen stated she did not know about the program.

Neil Shwindemin stated they have been working on the Blue Can for nearly 2 years. There has been a significant amount of research done, and many meetings with the Solid Waste Committee. Each City indicated they wanted to give their residents an opportunity to opt out. In researching across the State, recycling has become mandatory, with a few areas allowing for opt out. There was a 60 day time frame for opt out, and once this time frame was completed, contracts with Dixie Waste were signed to order cans and trucks.

Council Member Belliston asked what they do with new residents.

Mr. Schwenoiman stated if a resident moves within their own City they can remain opted out. However, if a new resident moves within the City, they are mandatorily opted in.

City Manager Roger Carter stated he did not know if someone moved within the City and were opted out they could remain so. However, he does like this idea.

Council Member Granger asked if she tries this for 6 months and decides she does not feel the recycling is beneficial, can she then opt out.

Mr. Schwenoiman. stated you can choose not to recycle, but the charge will continue on the bill. From the Solid Waste District perspective, we need to look to the future and decide what is best for the County overall. It would have been much easier if the district raised the billing \$3.00 and then at a later date, delivered a recycling can, but they chose to allow residents the opportunity to opt out. Every resident is currently allowed 2 cans, and can use dumpsters and are able to come to the landfill at any time, all of this is at a very minimal fee. He would challenge anyone to go anywhere in the State of Utah and see where they can get all of these services for such a small cost. The recycling will help preserve our landfill, and help keep our rates down in the future.

Council Member Nisson asked if there is any opportunity for individuals for opt out.

Mr. Schwenoiman asked if the City wants to take on the responsibility to determine hardship. There are some areas who have hardship policies. However, the fear is, if you open the door back up, we open the floodgates. We have determined a level of participation and have a contractor who has.

Council Member Granger asked we could determine the number of members who opt out could be bound by the new residents who are moving in. We have snowbirds who are not here every month.

Mr. Schwenoiman stated he has been paying into Social Security for many years, and he doesn't feel he will ever get it so it's one of those things.

Council Member Granger stated she does not have kids in school, but still pays school tax.

Mr. Schwenoiman agreed recycling is set up the same way as the solid waste. The City does the billing, which is in an agreement with each individual municipality.

Council Member Belliston asked if someone has 2 cans and now a blue can, could the landfill

come out and pick up the extra can.

Mr. Schwenoiman stated the resident can call in and the landfill will come out and pick up the extra can.

Mrs. Wilcox explained she feels anyone who is in Washington Council should have received an individual letter, which would state that they are doing a recycling program, and they could have been more clearly able to see what was going on and have the opportunity to opt out. Many people in this room did not get an actual letter stating the program, and it was a backhanded way to be done. She wants to opt out because it will be a waste.

Mayor Neilson told the residents to remember they are talking to human beings, and discuss this in an adult manner. He is sorry citizens did not see the notification.

Sheryl Lay stated she would agree with everything they have said. She recycles, but she takes everything to the bins. She does not remember reading anything stating it has been done, but she would suggest the City have the residents opt-in rather than what they have done.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the \$3.50 is not a lot of money, but he feels the residents should have had the opportunity to opt in. This is deceitful.

Susanne Murphy stated she had her Blue Can picked up and taken back. However, she is now going to still be paying for it. She hopes the people who have taken the time to come to the meeting would be able to opt out.

Mrs. Thurston asked if she has her can picked up can the money not be charged.

Council Member Turek stated there is an agreement made with the Solid Waste District, which they are discussing at this time. The money will be collected, unless other arrangements can be made.

Dustin Cummings stated he does not really read his entire bill. He feels it should been opt in rather than what the Council did.

Council Member Turek stated the contract has been signed a contract with the Solid Waste District. Ultimately the bill will have to be paid because agreements have been made with Cities as well as the District. They had three choices when this came before Council. The City could force all residents to participate, have nobody participate, or allow for an opt out.

Mr. Pettit stated the notification was not done good enough.

Council Member Turek stated personal letters on a large scale items is not necessarily a bad idea, but smaller items, the expense of individual letters may not be necessary.

Mr. Cummings stated Coral Canyon is a large population of Washington City. If those people were more aware, he knows they would have opted out.

Council Member Belliston stated the implementation of Blue Can was put into place several months ago. There were many attempts made to let people know. There were public meetings, he received many mailers, and there were even mentions of this on the news. There is a concern for the future of Washington County landfill. He received postcards, and several mailers, as well as social media, and public meetings.

Mr. Cummings stated he was at the landfill today, and it is one of the best run landfills he has ever been to. However, he will never look at his bill unless his power goes out. It is automatically paid.

Council Member Turek asked how he would prefer to be notified. If people are not looking at the newsletter, then Washington City would like to have ideas of how people would like to get information. If people are out of town 6 months out of the year, we need to be able to communicate with them.

Mr. Pettit stated many people get email to their phone, so he thinks email would be a good way of noticing.

Micheal Heaton stated he is the County Representative from the Solid Waste District. Recycling has been being worked on for several years. There have been surveys sent out to all of the residents about the importance of recycling. There was enough positive response, they decided to move forward with the recycling program. The landfill is an important part of the County. When the current space is filled, the Solid Waste District does not have additional land, and the expense will be great. Through the years, it has been determined recycling needs to take place to increase availability to the current space. The program was set up as it was, because if individuals were given an opportunity to opt-in, they would not do it. The recycling project will save hundreds of thousands of dollars for a small fee of \$3.50.

Council Member Turek asked if residents could be allowed to opt out.

Mr. Heaton stated Council can do whatever they want as far as opting out, but the cost will fall on the City. The Solid Waste District has contracted with the City for the recycling costs according to the opt out list that was presented.

Council Member Turek clarified if there is a hardship and a resident was allowed to opt out of Blue Can, the burden of the cost would then fall on the City.

Mr. Heaton stated he was correct.

Robert Adams asked how the private contractor will know how many trucks and how much to charge.

Councilman Turek explained it has been in the works for several years. The final count was determined once the opt out period was finalized, and the contracts were signed.

Mr. Adams stated he is against the Blue Can, when he recycles on his own at the bins.

Mr. Rodriguez stated the residents are being told they are going to pay the money whether they use the recycling or not.

Faye Reber stated his is the attorney for the Solid Waste District. He reviewed the negotiations with Dixie Waste for recycling with Council. The best way to get the lowest price possible is to get the most participation possible. It is unfortunate that individuals feel they did not get properly notified. However, it is the responsibility of the residents to stay abreast of what is happening in their community. There were notifications sent in bills, and public meetings as well as in the paper and postings. It is not the Council's responsibility to make sure the residents are reading the information being sent to them.

Mayor Kenneth Neilson stated he will discuss this situation with Council and Staff and find out if there is a way to help individuals opt-out. He will do the best he can to get an answer to those citizens who are interested.

Mrs. Rodriguez stated she was with her mom as she suffered strokes during the opt out period. She feels this is a hardship and life happens. She should be able to opt out

Prudence Bice stated she does not understand why in this day and age why she never received an email. It was unfair to the community members, and there should have been announcements on the radio. She is always on the computer and she should have received an email. This is unjust and unfair, and she feels it is even illegal.

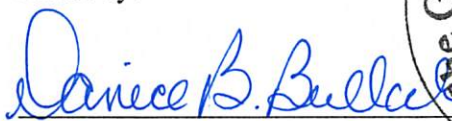
Mr. Reber stated the overall County participation was at 85%. At this point the fee is locked in for 5 years. The \$2.94 is a flat fee and will not go up provided the participation percentage does not go below 70% over the 5-year period.

Mayor Neilson explained Public Forum meetings are held on a quarterly basis, and would like to have citizen participation to voice their concerns.

*Meeting adjourned at 6:49 P.M.*

Passed and approved this 23rd day of March, 2016.

Attest by:

  
Danice B. Bulloch, City Recorder



Washington City

  
Kenneth F. Neilson, Mayor